



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Department of Public Safety & Corrections • Public Safety Services

8181 Independence Blvd. • Baton Rouge, LA 70806

www.lasfm.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Ken Pastorick
Public Affairs Director

PHONE: 225-406-8153
osfm.publicaffairs@la.gov

Rapides Parish Woman Arrested for Aggravated Arson Following House Fire

RAPIDES PARISH (December 2, 2025) – A State Fire Marshal (SFM) investigation has resulted in the arrest of a Flatwoods woman in connection with two separate fires that occurred on her property. The second incident, which involved a home, raised significant life-safety concerns among neighbors who reported fear and anxiety due to the repeated events.

On November 29, 2025, the Rapides Parish Sheriff's Office arrested 36-year-old Destiny Mitchell on an SFM warrant for Aggravated Arson.

The Flatwoods Fire Department responded at 9:16 a.m. on November 22, 2025, to a residential fire in the 2200 block of Highway 8 in Flatwoods. This marked the second fire at the location within a week. No injuries were reported.

Upon request for investigative support, SFM deputies determined the fire had been intentionally set and identified Mitchell as the suspect. Deputies also confirmed the residence was equipped with a working smoke alarm.

DPS Principal Assistant, Chief Bryan J. Adams, encourages all Louisiana residents to safeguard their homes by ensuring they have functioning smoke alarms. The Department's Operation Save-A-Life program provides free smoke alarms and installation assistance to qualifying households.

The Office of State Fire Marshal extends its appreciation to the Rapides Parish Sheriff's Office and the Flatwoods Fire Department for their prompt response and critical assistance in resolving this case.

Anyone with information related to this case or other fire-related crimes is urged to contact the SFM Arson Hotline at 1-844-954-1221, or submit an anonymous tip at lasfm.org.

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